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society for eight hundred years in its terrible warfare between church and state, led the wise men who framed our constitution to render it purely secular. This is the only principle that secures for us any respect, or at least unqualified respect, from the best minds of the world of the present day; to them the separation between civil and religious interests, the one public and the other private, is the only successful experiment that our country has made. People have become so far civilized as to live together without fear of personal violence; the body is safe, and it is time that the spirit should be so too. The Bible is a religious instrument entirely, and the attempt to force it into all public schools which are government dependencies, in opposition to the will of even one citizen, is an act of tyranny and a violation of the above principle. Our school system worked admirably when this matter was left to local feeling.\* It would have worked admirably for all time, if meddling politicians, who, it seems, are allowed to drag every good thing into the dirt, had not interfered with it. In order to obtain votes from narrow-minded people, they have held out the Bible to them with the same motive that they hold out liquor to the ignorant laborer. It is a misfortune that there are not some things sacred for politicians!

In respect to officers, teachers, etc., and the earnestness with which they fulfill their duties, too much could not be said in their praise.

THE POETICAL WORKS OF WINTHROP MACKWORTH PRAED. Redfield, New York. 2 vols.

Nobody can read Praed's poetry without being charmed by it. A genial love of nature, delicate satire, and easy versification, humor and freedom from affectation, are all characteristic qualities of his poetry. He does not aim high, but is true to his aim. His "Every Day Characters," the Vicar and Quince in particular, are gems. We can indorse the opinion of the appreciative editor of this edition: "Few writers have written purer lines, few satirists have done their task with more gentleness . . . whenever there shall be found a mind which appreciates the beauty of graceful thoughts and kindly sentiments expressed in flowing lines and melodious cadences, there will be found an admirer of Winthrop Mackworth Praed's poetry."

A SELECT GLOSSARY OF ENGLISH WORDS Used formerly in Senses different from their Present. By Richard Chenevix Trench. Redfield. 1859.

Too much credit cannot be awarded to our friend Redfield for the regular and commendable manner in which he issues every new publication of Dean Trench to the American public. The Dean has made language, as the vehicle of thought, the study of his life; and through his valuable labors, both the English and American people are beginning to comprehend more clearly the value of words. It is only in this way that thought can have an outlet through the oceans of words on which our political orators and newspaper writers so confusedly though grandiloquently float. The Dean has a keen insight into both the grammatical structure and etymological ramifications of language, and is equally fresh and clear in the exposition of his own views. We hope that all his past labors, however, are but preliminary to the great dictionary of the English

language, which, being aided by many worthy colaborers, he proposes to give, sooner or later, to the world. Every student feels the want of such a work, in beholding the transparent deficiencies of the innumerable dictionaries which are constantly coming before the English reader. Compilations are worthless, as they but add to the rubbish which already chokes up the pathway of every investigator into the nature of our mother tongue. We want a thorough and original work, such as we have no doubt Dean Trench and his coadjutors are capable of giving us. The work before us is in the vein of all our author's works, and is equally interesting as an etymological history and philosophical analysis of our language. We can recommend it both as to the matter and as to the neat typographical style in which it is published by Mr. Redfield.

GERMAINE. By Edmond About. Translated by Mary L. Booth. J. E. Tilton & Co., Boston.

This novel, translated from the French, has an unnatural, impossible plot, wrought out with considerable power in its details. There are fair delineations of character and faithful descriptions, and the usual number of dramatic situations. Germaine, the heroine, is a young girl of a noble but impoverished family, who is slowly wasting away with consumption, her disease being aggravated by poverty. She becomes the wife of a rich Spanish nobleman, through an intrigue of a mistress (herself married), by whom he had a child, and which child the father sought to legitimate. This is one of the conditions of the marriage with Germaine, that the child should be accepted too. The mistress trusts to the death of Germaine to recover her lover, and, in the event of the death of her own husband, for an opportunity to marry the nobleman herself. Germaine, however, is restored to health, and the plotting mistress is foiled. The book is got up in beautiful style, as are all the publications of this house that we have seen.

WOMEN ARTISTS in all ages and countries. By Mrs. Ellet. Harper & Brothers, New York.

A critic as just and as inflexible as Fuseli, would, perhaps, repudiate some of the names introduced into this work, and some of its critical remarks, and then indorse it with commendation; we are only too glad to pass it without the least critical cavil. We have no knowledge of a book in the English language on the same subject, nor of any wherein the same information can be had. It reveals the careful researches of a German—a fact that might be suspected had not Mrs. Ellet so stated it in her preface, the work being mainly compiled from "a little volume issued in Berlin by Ernest Guhl, entitled 'Die Frauen in die Kunsts geschichte.'" A fair portion of Mrs. Ellet's labor is devoted to American female artists; an interesting account of Harriet Hosmer closes the book. We shall allude to this work again.

AUTOGRAPH ETCHINGS. By Ehninger.

Among the artistic holiday books of this season, there is not one that commands itself like this to people of taste.

MANY of the old and rich so trust to, and so esteem the estimation of their wealth, that they openly prefer the most evident and servile sycophancy to faithful affection, if it wears the air of independence. It is but rarely that legacy-hunters defeat their own ends by any amount of omnipotent assiduity. The rich man does not like to see the shadow of indifference to his wealth.—*Boyes*.

\* See the admirable minority report of the Committee of the Board in which this matter was considered.